produce 20,000 cars. Commercial production is anticipated to commence by July, 1996. (iii) The joint venture will have 51% equity participation by M/s. Daimler Benz and the balance 49% will be contributed by M/s. TELCO. (iv) There will be no production of engines in 1994-95 as the Joint venture will take up only assembly of cars from semi-knock down kits supplied by M/s. Mercedes Benz.

Duping of investors by M/s. Eassy Agro and Fish Farms

3551. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDEY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that several advertisements are appearing in the press by investors in the Agro-Sector for planting more trees and earning huge amount of money by way of returns;

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Agro and Fish Farms have duped hundred of investors and have been arrested by Delhi Police; and

(c) if so, what regulations Government is bringing to curb this kind of cheating?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pesticide contamination affecting export of food items

3552. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the serious concern expressed on the consumption of pesticide contaminated foods both of plant and animal origin;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the West, where our farm products including spices, tea, coffee, tobacco, fruit, vegetables and other products are exported there is awareness and resistance to consumption of pesticide contaminated products; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that exports of various items especially tea and rice have been affected; and if so, details of the decrese in exports of various items including cotton and fibres on this account and corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There is growing concern on consumption of pesticide contaminated foods in developed countries.

It is not correct to say that exports of tea, rice, cotton etc. have declined due to increasing concern about pesticides contamination. Overall exports of agricultural commodities have been steadily increasing.

Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils and Export Inspection Agencies have been organising educational programmes disseminating necessary information on the subject providing analytical and technical support to growers, processors and exporters and also taking up awareness programmes through audio-visual media.

Representations from exporters for getting steel from domestic manufacturers

3553. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently received representations from exporters to allow them to get steel from domestic manufacturers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken/ propose to take in the matter?